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Secret Chicago Post For U.S. Raids Set Up

Chicago Sun-Times

CHICAGO — Some 100 Federal agents from other cities have established a secret headquarters here to prepare for raids against the crime syndicate.

The agents, who will act as undercover men, hope to ferret out violations of Federal laws in night clubs and taverns used as fronts. They also hope to curb the traffic in drugs to youths.

The force is under the Justice Department, which has brought in men from other Federal agencies. The agents have come from the Department's Federal Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Section, and many others from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit and other units of the Treasury Department.

Targets of the strike force are believed to be lower-echelon hoodlums. Many top syndicate leaders have been convicted and others face indictment in cases developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The strike forces operate under what is known as the "Buffalo Plan," named for a procedure first found effective in fighting organized crime in Buffalo, N.Y.

Similar forces are operating in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Detroit; Philadelphia; Newark, N.Y., and Miami.

The forces drew praise in early December from the House Republican Task Force on Crime which submitted a 9000-word report to President-elect Nixon on methods of combating organized crime.

The report said the strike forces, originated by Attorney General Ramsey Clark, "ought not only be retained but also expanded."